

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1372

By McKee

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Foree family of McMinn County on behalf of one hundred years of service in the field of medicine.

WHEREAS, from time to time, it is given to the members of this august Body the opportunity to recognize those families whose dedication to their fellow man has engendered a legacy far-reaching in scope and influence; and

WHEREAS, the Foree family of McMinn County is one such family who, for one hundred years, have provided the good people living in the communities of McMinn County with the highest levels of medical service; and

WHEREAS, born in 1856 in Buscombe County in North Carolina, Dr. James Oliver Foree established his medical practice in the town of Calhoun in 1900. In 1906, Dr. James Foree moved with his wife, Rose Elizabeth Samuel Foree, to Athens, where, in addition to a flourishing medical practice, he proved his entrepreneurial mettle, establishing various businesses and pursuing several different ventures, and became, along with his wife, a formidable force in civic and charitable affairs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Foree died in 1915, and Ms. Bessie Foree continued operating the family business until her death in 1961; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James and Ms. Bessie, as his wife was affectionately known, were the loving parents of four children: Carey, William Edwin, Grace, and Allie; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carey Oliver Foree, born in 1896, gained his medical degree in 1921 from the University of Louisville College of Medicine, spent several years early in his practice in the coal mining towns of Virginia, and returned to Athens in 1928, where he established a medical office on East Washington Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Edwin Foree, born in 1902, also gained his medical degree from the University of Louisville College of Medicine. He joined his brother, Carey, in the coal mining towns before returning with him to Athens and joining with him in the practice; and

WHEREAS, the Foree brothers, known to the citizens of McMinn County as “Doc Carey” and “Doc Ed,” together embarked on an ambitious endeavor, aiming to bring the finest medical care to their patients. Realizing the need for a hospital, Drs. Carey and Edwin Foree conceptualized and funded, in 1930, the establishment of Foree Hospital, a red brick, thirty-room hospital outfitted with the latest in medical technology and advances, including a separate delivery room, a modernized operating room, and a silent call system for the nurses; the hospital represented the philanthropic nature of Dr. Edwin and Dr. Carey Foree, but perhaps nothing represented their deep love for their neighbors so much as their unwavering commitment to providing medical care to anyone in need, regardless of that person’s ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, Drs. Carey and Edwin Foree each dedicated more than fifty years of their lives to the practice of medicine; Dr. Edwin Foree retired in 1967, shortly before his death in 1971, and Dr. Carey Foree died in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Edwin Foree, Jr., born in 1931 to Dr. William Edwin and Lorene Ann Foree and known as “Bill,” gained his medical degree from the University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis, completed his internship in Knoxville, embarked on general surgery training in Chattanooga and Boston, Massachusetts, and completed urological training in New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Foree established what was to become a very successful urology practice in Athens in 1965. He ran his practice out of what was once the Foree Hospital and later became the Foree Clinic. Though he retired from his practice in 1999, he still serves the people of McMinn County as the McMinn County Medical Examiner, a post to which he was first elected in 1980; and

WHEREAS, over the past one hundred years, the Foree family has constructed an impressive legacy in McMinn County, one which embodies each doctor’s deep appreciation for and love of the community; in honor of the family’s one hundred years of unwavering and

dedicated service, the Foree family is most deserving of the recognition of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. James Oliver Foree, Dr. Carey Oliver Foree, Dr. William Edwin Foree, and Dr. William Edwin Foree, Jr., four doctors whose practices provided medical care to the good people of McMinn County and all its communities for a century and recognize the Foree family's medical legacy as one of the finest in the State and in the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.